



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

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## ***Space Odyssey for NASA Renewed in 2000***

NASA has pioneered the future for more than four decades, and the agency's achievements this past year are marked by a spirit of cooperation never-before-seen in the history of Space exploration. The dream of the first crew to live on the International Space Station is realized at a time when nations that were once separated by the Cold War are now joined in a project of discovery.

The discovery in 2000 of evidence of flowing water on Mars rekindled hopes of finding life on our planetary neighbor. The images from Mars Global Surveyor also helped fuel the excitement for NASA's long-term exploration plans of the Red Planet.

For additional information and images from the past year, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/newsinfo/topten2000.html>

### ***Expedition One Crew Begins International Space Station Adventure***

The arrival of the Zvezda service module cleared the way for the Expedition One crew to launch a new era in space history Oct. 31. American Commander Shepherd and his Russian crewmates, Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev lifted off in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to make their new home aboard the International Space Station. <http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/>

### ***Evidence of Liquid Water Found on Mars***

Imaging scientists using data from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor camera spacecraft found features that suggest there may be current sources of liquid water at or near the surface of the red planet. Studies of later images by Mars Global Surveyor revealed layers of sedimentary rock that paint a portrait of an early Mars filled with numerous lakes and shallow seas.

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/releases/2000/marswater.html>

### ***Earth Mapping Mission a Stunning Success***

The Space Shuttle Endeavour served as an Earth observatory early in 2000 during STS-99. The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission was a breakthrough in the science of remote sensing and produced topographic maps of Earth 30 times as precise as the best global maps in use today. The information collected will help produce one of the most comprehensive and

accurate maps of Earth ever assembled. <http://www-radar.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/>

### ***SOHO Sees Turbulent Side of the Sun***

A week's advance warning of potential bad weather in space is now possible thanks to the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft. With a technique that uses ripples on the Sun's visible surface to probe its interior, SOHO scientists have, for the first time, imaged solar storm regions on the far side of the Sun, the side facing away from the Earth.

<http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov>



*Sounding Rocket Program Office Picture*

***The Terrier MK 70 Lynx on the rail prior to launch from Wallops Island.***

### ***Wallops Shorts..... Sounding Rocket Launch***

A Terrier MK 70 Lynx sounding rocket was successfully launched on Dec. 19 from Wallops Island, Va. The mission was to test the new Lynx rocket motor that will be used as a Navy target vehicle and as a potential sounding rocket. John Winstead, NAWC, White Sands Missile Range, N.M., was the principal investigator.

### ***Balloon Launch***

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched on Dec. 28, 2000, from McMurdo, Antarctica. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried a cosmic ray astrophysics experiment. Principal investigators for this mission were Drs. John Wefel and Greg Guzik, Louisiana State University. The balloon was still flying on January 4.

### ***Student Summer Program Applications Available***

Applications and information for three summer programs — NASA SHARP, NASA SHARP Plus and the National Space Club Scholars Program — geared towards high school students interested in careers in science and engineering are available in the Public Affairs Office, Rm. 108, Bldg. F-6.

SHARP and the Space Club Scholars Program are conducted at the Wallops Flight Facility and are open to students within commuting distance to Wallops. SHARP Plus is a residential program at universities across the country. The application deadline for all three programs is mid to late February.

## ***Administrator's New Year's Message***

What a difference a year makes. The year 1999 tested our character and our spirit of exploration. Each of you responded in 2000, answering those challenges with a diverse string of impressive achievements.

I couldn't be more proud. Today, you can look into the sky at one of our bright new stars and literally catch a glimpse of our future as the International Space Station orbits overhead. The arrival of the Expedition One crew ushered in a new era of international cooperation unprecedented in the history of space exploration. Through international partnerships, commercial ventures and customer-driven projects, we will do things in space not possible here on the Earth.

How did the universe evolve? Are we alone? We're trying to answer these fundamental questions of science and technology. Some of the answers may be unfolding before our eyes. NASA's scientific research was recognized as world class this year.

Science Magazine credited NASA-led teams with three of the 10 most important scientific breakthroughs of the year 2000: Mars Global Surveyor's evidence of liquid water on Mars; creation of the most detailed map of the early universe, developed by BOOMERANG data; and the NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft's rendezvous with the asteroid Eros.

And not only is NASA's work earning kudos from the scientific community, but also from the general public. This year, NASA's Customer Service Rating, as measured by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, rose from 80 percent in 1999 to 86 percent in 2000. NASA received the highest score of any federal agency, higher even than the U.S. Mint's rating among coin collectors.

In 2001, we face a new frontier of possibilities and opportunities. Our space odyssey is just beginning. We lost some of the best and brightest members of our NASA family this year. It reminds us to cherish each other and to do the most with each day we have on Earth. We mourn their loss, but honor their memory with renewed commitment to safety, teamwork, and excellence. We should also use this time at the beginning of a new year to take a personal inventory of our lives, paying closer attention to our health, our family, and our friends.

## **Highlights from Wallops Annual Awards Ceremony**

Congratulations to the many Wallops employees who received Goddard Annual and Quarterly Awards during 2000 and were recognized at the Wallops Annual Awards Ceremony held Dec. 15. John Conquest was named the WEMA/MAC Volunteer of the Year, and the following employees received recognition for years of service.

### **40 Years of Service**

Joe Duke

### **35 Years of Service**

Gracie Drew, Charles Griffin, Dave Shrewsbury, Johnnie Long and David Hancock, III

### **30 Years of Service**

Peggy Belote and Joan Murden

### **25 Years of Service**

Donald Carson, Sherry Kleckner, Judy Killmon, Howard Killmon, Sandra Savage, Andrea Wessells and Ralph Selby, III

## **Swales and Associates Selected for Mechanical Systems Engineering Services Contract**

Swales and Associates, Inc., in Beltsville, Md., has been selected for a contract to provide mechanical systems engineering services to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The five-year contract has a potential value of \$350 million.

This is a new contract that consolidates the services of two previous engineering support contracts at Goddard.

Swales will provide engineering services for the study, design, development, fabrication, integration, testing, verification and operations of space flight and ground system hardware and software. The company also will develop and validate new technologies to enable future science missions.

Goddard launches dozens of orbiting spacecraft, sub-orbital sounding rockets, high-altitude research balloons and sophisticated instruments each year to gather scientific data. Swales will support the Center's government staff to build, test, launch and operate these missions.

This is a performance-based, cost-plus-award fee, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract.

## **Front Desk Clerk**

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) now has a Front Desk Clerk, Debbie Toth, for the dormitories in Building F-4 and F-5. Effective Jan. 2, 2001, all dormitory reservations, key pickup, key drop off and collections for the dormitories will be conducted from Building F-5. Reservations may be placed by calling Debbie Toth on extension 1697.

## **The Wallops Black History Club (a MAC sponsored club)**

Presents an evening of dinner and entertainment

February 17, 2001  
5 p.m. to Midnight  
Bldg. D-10  
Wallops Gymnasium

Donation: \$20.00 per person  
Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 5, 2001.

For tickets or information, call Karen Downing, x2163; Sandra Banks, x2526 or Rebecca Beach, x1559.



*Congratulations and best wishes to Terry Sommers, Real-Time Software Engineering Branch, who retired effective January 3 with more than 31 years of government service.*

## **NASA Selects Cortez III Service Corporation for Logistics Contract**

NASA has selected Cortez III Service Corporation of Albuquerque, N.M. for the award of a Cost-Plus-Incentive-Fee, Award Term logistics contract.

The new contract has a basic three-year period of performance. Seven additional one-year option periods are available for a contract total of 10 years.

Cortez III will provide program and business management, information systems, project logistics support, supply support operations, transportation, equipment management and administrative services at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Total contract value for the three-year basic period is \$70,978,468. Contract value for all seven optional periods totals \$186,475,199. The portion allotted to the Wallops Institutional Consolidated Contract (WICC) option amounts to \$930,699.

## **Over Extended After the Holidays?**

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) monthly discussion group will meet on January 18 at 11:30 a.m. in Building F-160, Room C-164. "Over extended after the holidays?" is the topic for January.

Credit card bills start coming in, we realize how many pounds we gained in the past two months, and we feel let down because the holidays didn't go as well as expected.

Following a holiday vacation, returning to work is not always an easy transition, especially when you are feeling stressed about how you are going to recover from overextending yourself, either physically, emotionally or financially. Some of the difficult experiences people commonly have after the holiday season will be discussed. Different ways to effectively manage over extension and overall stress levels, as well as additional resources will be provided.

For further information, call the EAP on x66-4600.

## **From FEDweek Dec. 20 Issue**

### **TSP Contributions Limits to Rise**

The percentage of salary investment limits in the Thrift Savings Plan will rise and then be abolished, although a dollar cap still will apply under terms of the budget package enacted just before Congress adjourned in December.

The measure raises the maximum amounts that can be deducted from employee salaries each pay period effective with the TSP open season that begins May 15, 2001 to 11 percent for those under the FERS retirement system and 6 percent for those under the CSRS system, up from the current 10 and 5 percent limits, respectively. Effective with the open season beginning next November 15, the percentage limits will rise by another point, to 12 percent for FERS and 7 percent for CSRS.

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<http://www.wff.nasa.gov>